



# MFC News

*Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926*

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*December 2013*



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WISHING  
YOU  
A  
VERY  
MERRY  
*Christmas*



GlitterBall.com

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

## DID YOU KNOW...

- ◆ Over 1 billion people worldwide depend on forests to sustain their livelihood.
- ◆ Billions more depend on forests to provide them with clean air and water.
- ◆ That forests are home to an estimated 80 percent of a diversity of plants and animals. But over the years many forests have been subject to destruction and degradation.
- ◆ We are now dependent on only 20 crops for our food security.
- ◆ It is estimated that over 2,000 crop species contribute towards human food security, and 95 percent of food consumed is based on only 20 of those. A few of those--rice, wheat, and maize--contribute to more than 50 percent of global food consumption.

from [www.voanew.com](http://www.voanew.com)

### Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations may curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the **10<sup>th</sup> of the month** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions (in *Microsoft Word*) and photos to

[lharris@mfc.state.ms.us](mailto:lharris@mfc.state.ms.us)

or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris

Mississippi Forestry Commission  
822 SCR 115 South  
Raleigh, MS 39153

December 2013



## MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION EMPLOYEES WIN AWARDS AT THE MFA ANNUAL MEETING

At this year's MFA Annual Meeting in Tupelo, Mississippi, MFC employees were recognized for their outstanding commitment to the American Tree Farm System (ATFS).

The Outstanding Inspector of the Year award honors an ATFS volunteer inspector. Outstanding inspectors give their time to ATFS and perform considera-

ble outreach efforts to educate the public and private landowners on the benefits of sustainable forestry. Justin Dewberry, Service Forester for Benton and Marshall Counties, won the Tree Farm Inspector of the Year for Mississippi

Other MFC employees to receive awards for their outstanding achievements were: Jim Strong for District Tree

Farm Inspection of the Year for the Northwest District, Davis Lovelace for the Southeast District, and Baxter Rowley for Southwest District.

Mac Ables, Service Forester for Holmes County, was awarded the Tree Farm Leadership Award and Brendix Glasgow, DF Northeast District was awarded the Outstanding District Award.

For each new inspection, reinspection or sign erected, the inspector's name was entered into a drawing for \$500, the winner was Michael Crabb of South Central District.

Congratulations to each of our Tree Farm Winners.

### DISTRICT TREE FARMERS OF THE YEAR

- Tom and Ann Skelton , Tate County, Northwest District
- H.B. (Bud) and Barbara Maxey, Jr. , Winston County, East Central District
- Haynes Family, LLC , Jones County, South Central District
- Longleaf Farms – David and Fred Anderson, Southwest District
- Tom and Jeanette Price, Lamar County, Southeast District
- Jessie and Penny Purvis , Rankin and Scott County, Capitol District

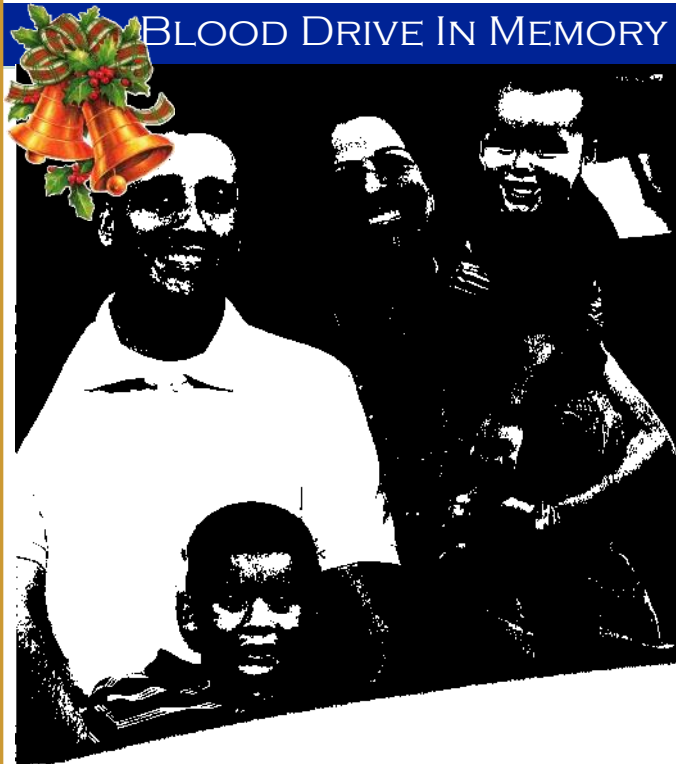


### STATE TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR

- John and Lois Arrechea , Lafayette County, Northeast District







**BLOOD DRIVE IN MEMORY OF TIM HINTON**

**Find the hero in you.**

Give blood 3 times a year!

The Franco family knows the value of blood donation. Little Daniel needed a transfusion at 5 weeks old.

## Blood Drive In Memory of Tim Hinton

Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Jasper County Multi-Purpose Building**

To make an appointment, go to [www.bloodhero.com](http://www.bloodhero.com)  
(sponsor code: TimHinton) or contact Tammy Spitchley at 601-764-2711.  
Join United Blood Services on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ubs.miss.bama](http://www.facebook.com/ubs.miss.bama)  
For questions regarding health, medications or travel deferrals,  
call United Blood Services at 1-800-880-0743.



**United Blood Services**

[www.UnitedBloodServices.org](http://www.UnitedBloodServices.org)

Please bring your photo ID and donor card. Free cholesterol testing with every donation!

This above flyer concerns the blood drive in memory of Jasper County Service Forester Tim Hinton. Tim passed away from an extensive injuries he received from a fall out of a tree stand while bow-hunting on October 6th, 2012. He was in intensive care until he passed away on November 18, 2012. The MFC/ SCD is putting on a blood drive in his memory. District Forester Jack White needs to know if you plan to donate blood and what time you plan to donate your blood. Contact Jack White at 601-764-2711 for additional details and to make your appointment.

## December's Birthdays



Samuel Morgan -3  
Kenneth Parker -3  
Robert Ponder -3  
Frankie Butler -4  
Melissa Rea -4  
David Hamilton -5  
Elisha Williams -5  
Ted Harris -6  
Charlie Bass -7  
Dwight Brown -7  
Herbert Coker -7  
Otis Vanison -7  
Tracy Mooneyhan -8  
Vincent Smith -8  
Jessie Brown -9  
Benjamin Ford -9  
Lonnie Cook -10  
John Locke -11  
Samuel Gural -13  
Herman Watson -13  
Richard Hollis -14  
Stuart Sellers -14  
Dewitt Vowell -14  
Jake Camp -15  
Eriaka Jones -15  
Preston Smith -16  
William Fuller -18  
Duane Hodges -18  
James Oswalt -18  
Joe Miles -19  
Jordan Hand -20  
Mark Taylor -20  
Jesse Warfield -21  
Garron Hicks -22  
Steven Anders -23  
Johnathan Lewis -24  
Michael Alsworth -25  
Angela Bessonette -27  
Jared Bynum -27  
Wesley Howard -28  
Billy Powers -29  
Jean Teasley -30  
Mark Williamson -30  
Randy Wilson -30  
Anna Whatley -31

## Holiday

### Holiday Schedule for



**Christmas 2012 -  
December 24th  
and 25th.**



**New Year's 2013 -  
December 31, 2012  
and January 1,  
2013.**

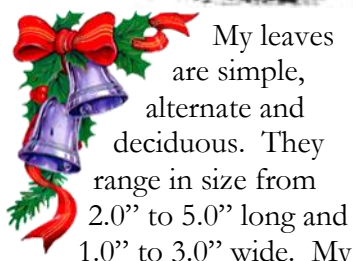
Mississippi's forests cover 19.6 million acres or 65% of the State, an increase in forest land of about 6% since 1994.

### EATING OUT ADDS 100 TO 300 CALORIES PER MEAL FOR KIDS

When children eat in regular or fast-food restaurants, their daily energy intake goes up by over 100 calories, and by about 300 calories for teens compared to eating at home. [News article »](#)

Source: Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine

December 2013



My leaves are simple, alternate and deciduous. They range in size from 2.0" to 5.0" long and 1.0" to 3.0" wide. My margin is remotely to distantly serrate or entire. The base of my leaves are rounded or wedge-shaped with an acute apex.

They are pale green above and white below in color. Their surface is glabrous above and stellate hairy along the vein on the upside.

My twigs are slender, brown in color with crescent-shaped leaf scars. They have a single central bundle scar.

I don't have a terminal bud and my axillary buds are 0.13" long. They are elliptical in shape and white in color.



## TREE KNOWLEDGE - WHO AM I?

My fruit is drupe which is dry, persistent style at the apex and enclosed below by persistent calyx. My fruit is 0.33" long, and obovoid to globose in shape. They are brown in color.

My flower is monoecious; perfect in 6.0" long axillary racemes of 5 to 20 flowers. They are white in color and bell shaped.

My bark is chestnut brown and smooth in texture.

I am consider a shrub or small tree and range in height from 6.0' to 40.0'. I have a moderate growth rate. I am tolerance to shade and have a moderate tolerances to drought with no tolerance to fire.

I am found in moist or wet soils of valleys and uplands; in understory of hardwood forest. I prefer medium soil texture with a soil pH of 4.5 - 6.5.

My range is from Virginia; west through Ohio, Indiana and Illinois; south through Arkansas to Texas; east to Florida; north up the Atlantic coast. In

Mississippi, I am scattered throughout the state.

The only wildlife value I have is bees are attracted to me.

I have not timber value or uses and I am occasional use as an ornamental. I have the most potential as a landscape tree in parks and other natural areas.

Who Am I?

### MISSISSIPPI WEST NILE VIRUS CASES CONTINUE TO RISE

New human cases of West Nile infection in the past week have raised Mississippi's total for the year to 80, including one death from WNV in Smith County.

Mississippi is now among the top states in the U.S. in total cases of West Nile infection for 2012. Precautions against mosquitoes are especially important for all Mississippians in July, August and September, peak months for the spread of West Nile virus.



**Tree Knowledge - Who Am I?** for October 2012 was the Swamp Cyrilla (*Cyrilla racemiflora* L.) Check out page 269 in the Mississippi Trees book.





To The MFC Team,

Merry Christmas everyone! I trust that all is well with you and your loved ones and that you and your family had a Happy Thanksgiving. Christmas will soon be upon us and a new year will be arriving shortly thereafter.

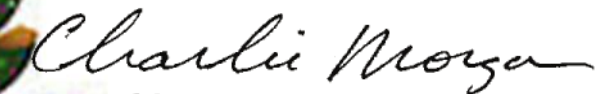
As you continue to enjoy the holidays, please do so safely. Practice firework safety and be sure to have adult supervision for any children that are involved. Also, double check to ensure that your holiday decorations are not creating a fire hazard. If you have a natural (live) tree, check the water level daily to ensure that the tree is not drying out.

As always, drive defensively and allow extra time to compensate for the increase in highway traffic. Also, anticipate potential driving hazards and be thinking of your avoidance route in the event they occur.

I want to thank each of you contributions toward a successful 2012. Working together we can ensure that we all have a safe and successful 2013.

Thank you and God's blessings to all.

Sincerely,



*Charlie Morgan*

Charlie Morgan  
State Forester





- \* Daniel W. Freeman, Forest Ranger, Jones County, South Central District
- \* Lonnie T. Cook, Forest Ranger, Marshall County, Northeast District



- ♦ Tim Hinton, Service Forester of Jasper County. Tim passed away on November 18, 2012. Please keep Tim's family in your prayer and thoughts as they work through these tough times.



## LARGER, HOTTER WILDFIRE THE NEW NORM IN WEST

October 15, 2012 • By  
Scott Sandsberry, Ya-  
kima Herald-Republic

The trend toward larger, hotter wildfires in this part of the country is rapidly becoming the new normal.

In the four decades between 1960 and 1999, wildfires in the United States scorched more than 7 million acres in a single year just once. Since 2000? Eight times, with 2012 at 8.8 million acres and still climbing. The annual number of wildfires exceeding 25,000 acres in 11 Western states has quintupled since the 1970s, according to a Climate Central report released last month.

The causes, fire ecologists say, are simple enough. A century of fire suppression and traditional "pick-and-pluck" logging practices that removed the largest, most fire-resistant trees have transformed open stands of ponderosa pine into multi-tiered, lower-crowned forests of thinner-barked trees more susceptible to spruce budworm and bark beetle — and catastrophic wildfire.

"The problem is so large," says James Agee, who has been the go-to guy on fire ecology for both the Forest Service and the National Park Service, "we can't attack it all in just a few years."

The fire season across the

West, according to the Climate Central analysis, is 2½ months longer than it was 40 years ago. This year's Yakima and Wenatchee Complex fires didn't even begin until the second week of September, and in extending the statewide burn ban last week, Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark said Washington had "not seen wildfire conditions this bad in October in a lifetime."

But it almost certainly will again. Soon. And for years to come.

Climatologists estimate western U.S. summer temperatures have risen more than 1 degree Fahrenheit over the last century and could, by the mid-21st century, climb another 3.6 degrees — or even more.

And if they go up even half that much, says the National Research Council, the burn area in those Western states is apt to quadruple.

### SCARY SPOTS ON MAP

Eighteen years ago, U.S. Forest Service officials proposed setting aside large blocks of forest as spotted owl habitat, in which there would be little management.

When they bounced the idea off Agee, then the service's forest fire consultant, he told them in no uncertain terms: No. Bad idea.

Minus active land management — thinning operations and prescribed burns — those de facto reserves,

Agee warned, would simply fuel increasingly larger wildfires.

Those officials asked Agee where he thought Washington's forests were at the greatest risk of that kind of fire. He pointed on the map to a spot in Central Washington he knew was prone to lightning activity. Three weeks later, a series of lightning strikes at that very location ignited the 1994 firestorm that burned 200,000 acres and blackened ridgetops all the way from Leavenworth to Chelan.

If Agee had been asked that same question last year, he would have pointed to the very areas burned in last month's Table Mountain and Wenatchee Complex fires, forests absolutely riddled with western spruce budworm that can defoliate and kill entire stands. This year, he might well pinpoint the Cascade foothills west of Yakima, where huge stands of bone-dry forest have been turned brown by the same kind of parasitic infestation. Even a tenacious Forest Service regimen of prescribed burning and stand-thinning treatments can't keep up.

"If you could treat about a third of the forest area, that would have a major impact on the rate of spread of these large wildfires, and they would also have less debilitating effects on the vegetation," Agee said. "But the rate we're

(Continued from page 6)

treating is maybe 1 to 2 percent per year at most, out of the context of being effective at all.”

### WHERE THERE'S SMOKE

Prescribed burns can also be unpopular with the general public because they, too, create smoke. Witness the reaction to the Wenatchee National Forest's September 2009 prescribed burn on the west end of Bethel Ridge.

At 6,100 acres, the “Kaboom” project was roughly five times the size of a typical large burn treatment, and things got messy when an inversion and a breezeless day left a smoky haze from Rimrock to Topenish. Local agencies were deluged with complaints, and three weeks later the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency issued a \$12,000 fine to the Naches Ranger District. The fine was later rescinded.

Three years later, though, Kaboom paid off. On Sept. 8 of this year, lightning struck an area east of the 2009 prescribed burn site, igniting what became the 2,015-acre Wild Rose Fire for which the now-fuels-poor Kaboom site served as an enormous fire break.

“That whole (west) side of the fire was never a worry to us,” said Jim Bailey, the Naches Ranger District's fire-fuels specialist, “because Kaboom was there.”

Suppression costs for the Wild Rose Fire were less than \$9 million, a figure Forest Service officials believe

would have been far higher — perhaps rivaling the costs of the Table Mountain or Wenatchee Complex fires (about \$50 million combined) — had Kaboom's security-blanket presence to the west not enabled wildland fire crews to concentrate their efforts on the fire's eastern boundary.

In the end, suppression costs on Wild Rose were \$4,400 for each acre burned.

Cost of the Kaboom prescribed burn: \$35 per acre.

### FIRE AND ITS PRICE TAG

The price tag matters in this era of flagging federal and state budgets.

Suppression costs of this year's wildfires exceeded \$1 billion, roughly twice what was budgeted. The Washington Post reported this week that since 2002, the Forest Service has had to divert \$2.2 billion from elsewhere in its budget to meet the costs of fire suppression.

That the fuel treatments — the ounce of prevention costing a fraction of the pound of cure — are effective was borne out in this year's wildfires around Wenatchee and Yakima. In addition to Wild Rose bumping right up against Kaboom, the Table Mountain Fire was slowed on the south side when it came through an area previously thinned and, along with the Peavine Fire, on the north side by several areas treated by thinning and burning.

One of the most dynamic circumstances came where the Table Mountain

and Peavine fires encroached very close to a housing development on the road up to the Mission Ridge Ski Area overlooking Wenatchee. Land managers had done multiple fuels treatments — thinning in 1992 and burns in 1996 and 2009 — that, without which, “The threat to that housing development would have been much, much greater,” said Richy Harrod, deputy fire staff officer for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

And the threat of wild-fire to the increasing sprawl of “wildland-urban interface” areas will continue as long as people continue to act like, well, people.

Target shooters and other gun users in tinder-dry wildlands ignited some three dozen wildfires this year in Utah and Idaho alone. Campfires, many of them illegal during burn bans, cause an average of 500 wildfires each year. The 2003 Cedar Fire that killed 15 people and blackened more than 280,000 acres in California began when a novice hunter became lost and decided to signal rescuers to his location by starting a fire.

### IT'S NOT IF, BUT WHEN

Wildlife response to wildfire can depend on the intensity of the fire. A widespread, particularly hot fire can completely change what animal life exists within a forest ecosystem.

(Continued on page 9)

## 2012 MISSISSIPPI BIOENERGY FACT SHEET

Did you know that Mississippi spent 16 percent of its Gross State Product on energy in 2010? That Mississippi ranked seventh in the nation for total forestland in 2007? Or, that Mississippi consumes over 3 million barrels of ethanol?

Learn more bioenergy facts about Mississippi via the [2012 Bioenergy State Fact Sheets](#), just released by the Southeast Agriculture & Forestry Energy Resources Alliance (SAFER).

In addition to facts on biomass resources, land uses, energy expenditures and electricity prices, the fact sheets also include a map highlighting the location and type of biomass facilities in each southern state, including Mississippi.

### PREVENTING THE FLU

Flu incidence is rising steadily in Mississippi, but you can take steps to protect yourself. Start by washing your hands thoroughly and frequently, since the influenza virus can be easily spread by contact. To protect others, stay home if you're sick, and remember to cover your coughs and sneezes. For the best protection, get a flu shot, or ask your doctor about flu nasal spray. You get your flu shot at any county health department, or locate a flu shot provider near you by visiting this [web site](#).





## SEEDLING FACTS

Nurseries provide nearly 1.5 billion trees for planting in the United States each year. This represents over six trees annually propagated for every U.S. citizen.

The United States Forest Service reports that nearly 3 million acres are forested with those billion and a half baby seedlings. For those that are interested, here are answers to questions on [Tree Planting Statistics for the United States](#).



## FOREST DISTRIBUTION

Did you know that of the 82 counties in Mississippi, 31 are estimated to be 50 -75% forested and 33 counties are  $\geq 75\%$  forested. Eight counties are estimated to be  $< 25\%$  forested and are located in the heavily agriculture-dominated Delta portion of the State.



## STINKING CEDAR FACES EXTINCTION



After 160 million years as an integral part of the Beech and Magnolia forests in the southeastern US, the Stinking Cedar now faces extinction due to habitat destruction and a widespread fungal disease. (Atlanta Botanical Garden)



## A TREE WITH DEEP SOUTHERN ROOTS ... LONGLEAF PINE

The longleaf pine towers over some of the South's most beautiful landscape. Follow this link (<http://gardenandgun.com/gallery/longleaf-pine>) to view 13 beautiful photos of the longleaf pine. These photos were taken by Beth Maynor Young, and were taken everywhere from Florida's wetlands to the hills of northern Alabama. [Garden & Gun]







## FUN WALK FOR HEALTH

By George Bryd,  
Northern Public Out-  
reach Forester.

Approximately thirty Northwest District employees participated in the quarterly "Fun Walk for Health" at the Carrollton Sportsplex nature trail on Friday October 26 in Carroll County. Mark Williams, Northwest District Forester, met with employees and reviewed some physical fitness tips and how to start a proactive health conditioning program. He encouraged all to participate in the state health wellness program which is offered to all state employees.



(Continued from page 7)

Kill all the trees in a forest, for example, and you wipe out the truffles — the underground mushrooms — that depend on the trees' root systems.

Then you lose the flying squirrels that eat the truffles, and that in turn impacts the spotted owls that depend on those squirrels as their primary prey.

Preventing catastrophic wildfire while still allowing for fire's natural place in the ecosystem, says Wenatchee-based Forest Service biologist John Lehmkuhl, "is trying to do that balancing act: How do you restore the

landscape and still give society what it wants, like these threatened and endangered species."

For the past year, Lehmkuhl has been studying the effects of thinning treatments on small mammals, flying squirrels and spotted owls in the Table Mountain area.

The effects of prescribed burns was next on the schedule — but that won't happen now. All of his study sites burned up in last month's fire.

Those sites were going to burn one way or another, like so many other areas in the Cascade forests. Humans can burn them a little bit at a

time, creating some bothersome smoke, or nature will take its own course.

"It's sort of that scenario of, you can pay me now or you can pay me later: You can take some smoke in small doses periodically, or you can take one really big dose of smoke when you eventually have that gigantic wildfire," said Dave Peterson, a Forest Service biologist who serves as a team leader at the Pacific Wildland Fire Sciences Lab in Seattle.

"With all these dry landscapes, it's not a question of if it's going to burn. It's when. And the amount of fuels on the ground will dictate how much of your for-

## YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Have you check out our new BMP videos? If not, surf on over to our YouTube page at <http://www.youtube.com/user/MSForestryCommission>.

At this time we have nine videos which cover topics such as BMP's, A Balance Forest, Forest Stewardship in Mississippi, Firewise In Mississippi and Fire Prevention in Mississippi Forest.

Be sure to check out the one titled, Mississippi Forestry Commission. Click on the picture below to view this video.



ests will burn."

Scott Sandsberry can be reached at 509-577-7689 or [ssandsberry@yakimaherald.com](mailto:ssandsberry@yakimaherald.com)

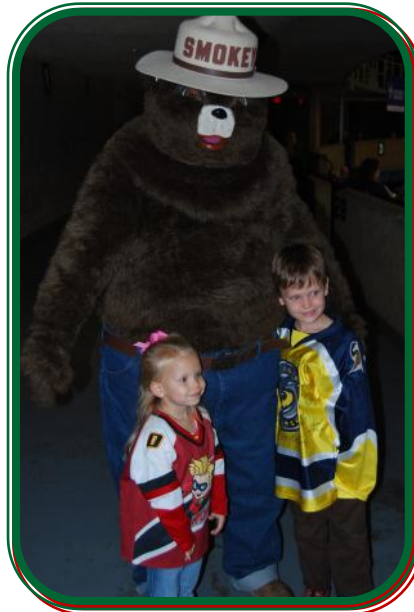




## MFC TEAMS UP WITH MS SPORTS TEAMS TO PROMOTE FIRE PREVENTION

During this fiscal year, the Mississippi Forestry Commission has teamed with four Mississippi sports teams to spread the word on fire preventions. Our fellow partners in Fire Prevention Campaigns have been the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Surge (Hockey) and River Kings (Hockey). Working with these partners, we have presented our fire prevention message to 82,335 sport fans.

At our latest sporting event, with the Mississippi Surge, 1,718 sporting fans were informed on how to prevent forest fires.







Visit <http://www.facebook.com/MSForestryCommission?ref=hl#!/media/set/?et=a.548736428477227.145572.409723455711859&type=3> for additional pictures. No facebook account needed to view pictures.





## MFC OUT & ABOUT



Firewise Display at the Longleaf Field day in Jones County. Picture by Southern Region Public Outreach Officer Meacham Harlow



Woodville Deer and Wildlife Festival. Picture by Southern Region Public Outreach Officer Meacham Harlow.



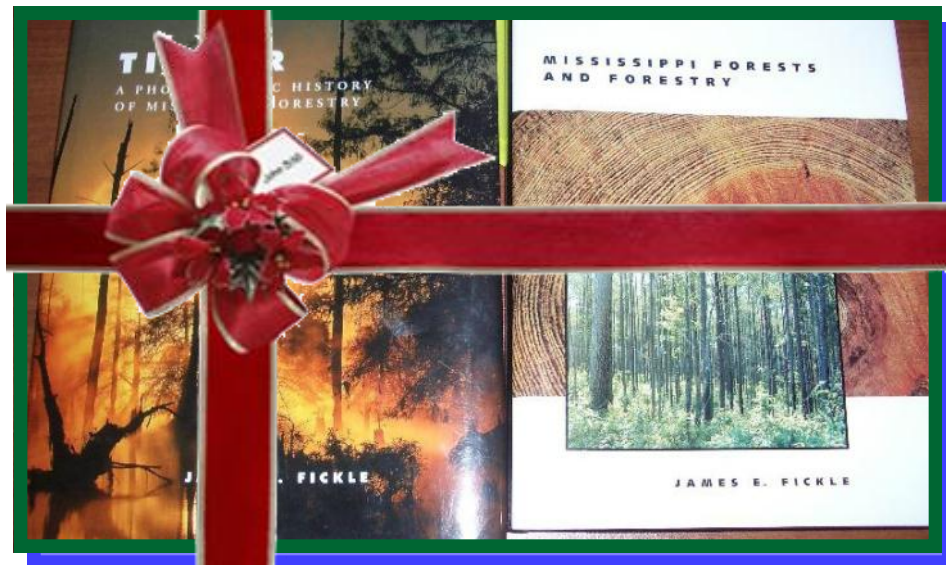
Best Management display at the George County Fair. Picture by Southern Region Public Outreach Officer Meacham Harlow



Display table at the dedication of Mississippi's First Forest Legacy Conservation Easement in Lucedale, Mississippi.



## FOREST HISTORY BOOKS - ON SALE NOW



Order Now  
Single Book \$20  
Set of two \$35  
plus shipping and handling  
or pick up at MFA Office

Prices good through December  
31, 2012

*Mississippi Forests and Forestry*, researched and written by Dr. James Fickle of the University of Memphis, tells the story of human interaction with Mississippi's woodlands. It is a comprehensive history of how people used the state's forests and how conservation triumphed. *Timber: A Photographic History of Mississippi Forestry* is a collection of black-and-white images that conveys the story of human impact on Mississippi's forests from the pioneer era to the present.

Photographs gleaned from public and private archives tell a visual tale of the development of Mississippi's forest industries. These books were published in the early 2000s and the Foundation is now offering them to you at a special price. All proceeds go to the Foundation for their educational and outreach programs. Give the gift of Mississippi Forests and Forestry or Timber: A Photographic History of Mississippi Forestry while supporting forestry education.

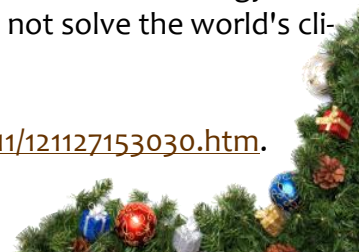


## CUTTING REAL CHRISTMAS TREES LESS ENVIRONMENTALLY HARMFUL THAN USING AN ARTIFICIAL ONE FOR SIX YEARS, BIOLOGISTS SAY

ScienceDaily (Nov. 27, 2012) —

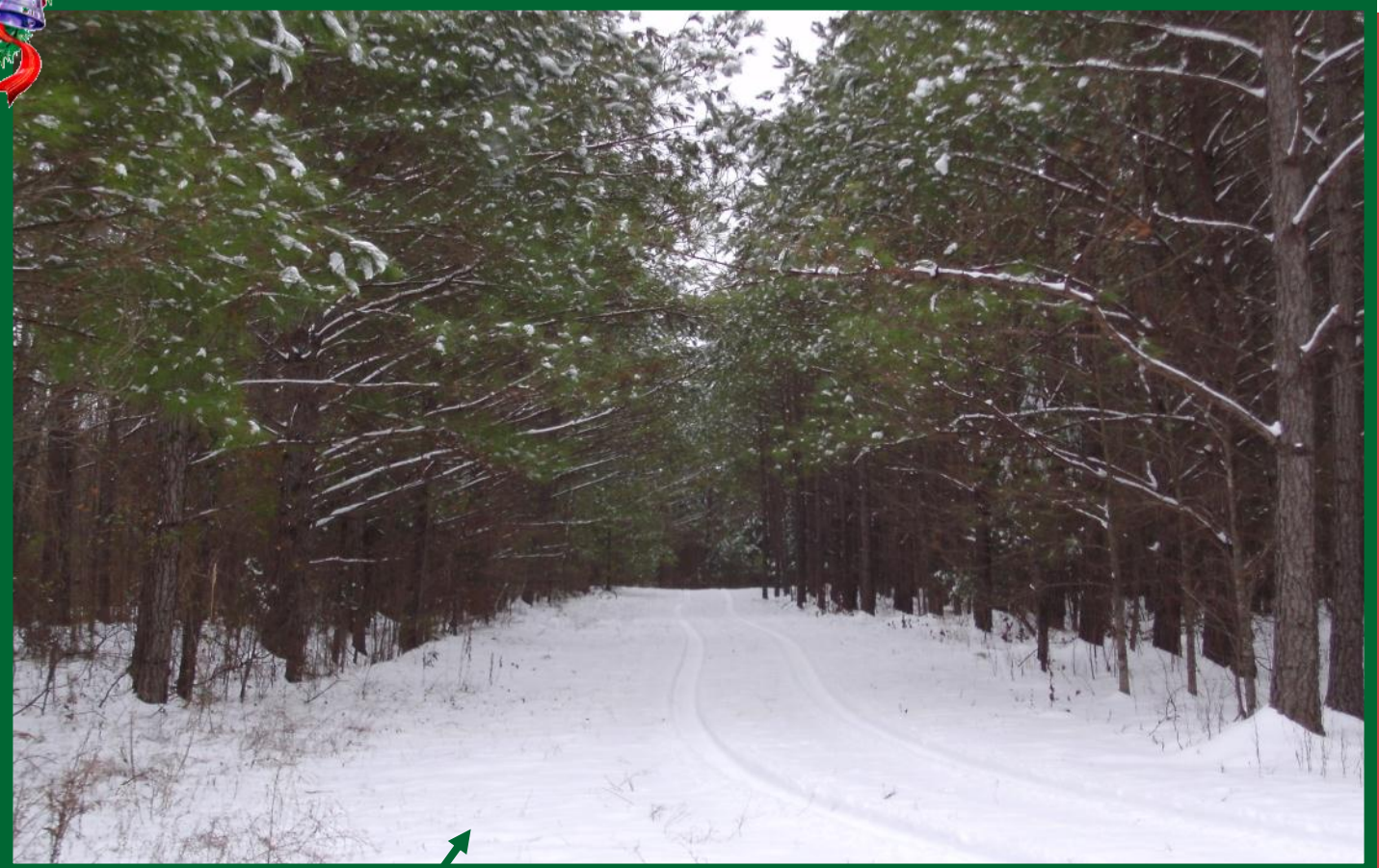
Given recent extreme weather events -- the summer's brutal heat and subsequent drought, followed by Superstorm Sandy's disastrous path -- newly green-conscious consumers may be wondering how to lessen their carbon footprint this holiday season. Plant biologist Clint Springer, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, says that buying a real Christmas tree may not solve the world's climate ills, but it is better than using an artificial one for a few years and tossing it.

For more information, follow this link: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/11/121127153030.htm>.





## MFC OUT &amp; ABOUT



# CONGRATULATIONS

**While Supplies Last... Sign Up to Receive Your 2013 Tree Farm Calendar!**



**Enjoy Tree Farm views from all over the United States**

The American Tree Farm System® gives you the tools you need to keep your forest healthy and productive. Our exclusive 2013 Tree Farm Calendar includes resources to protect the land you love.

**Hurry: Supplies won't last—order your calendar today at [treefarmssystem.org/2013calendar](http://treefarmssystem.org/2013calendar).**

The American Tree Farm System®. We grow stewardship from the roots.

Supplies are limited to 1,000 calendars, which will be mailed on a first come, first served basis.

## Congratulation to Service Forester Shaun Rogers.

Shaun entered the above photograph in the annual Stihl Photo Contest but did not win. When he got the card in the mail about the 2013 Tree Farm Calendar, he noticed a familiar scene for the January photo. It was his photo of the Hurricane Creek Tree Farm on the Cotton Gin road, Itawamba county.



## AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS: SALAZAR ANNOUNCES FEE FREE DAYS AT NATIONAL PARKS, OTHER PUBLIC LANDS FOR 2013

WASHINGTON --

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar this week announced dates in 2013 ranging from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day to Veterans Day when more than 2,000 national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, and other federal lands will offer free admission to everyone.

"Our national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests and other public lands offer every American a place to enjoy outdoor recreation, learn about our nation's history and culture, and restore our souls and spirits by connecting with the natural beauty and wildness of our land," Salazar said. "By providing free admission, we are putting out an invitation to all Americans to visit and enjoy these extraordinary treasures that belong to all our people."

The National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will waive their entrance fees and the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation will waive their standard amenity fees on September 28 for National Public Lands Day and from November 9 to 11 for Veterans Day weekend.

The National Park Service will also waive entrance fees on January 21 for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, from April 22 to 26 during National Park Week, and on August 25 to celebrate the agency's 97th birthday.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will also waive entrance fees on January 21 for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and on October 13 for National Wildlife Refuge Day.

The Bureau of Land Management will also waive standard amenity fees on January 21 for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The U.S. Forest Service will also waive standard amenity fees on January 21 for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and on June 8 for Get Outdoors Day.

"National parks and other public lands are becoming increasingly important for both our mental and physical health," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "In our fast-paced world, they provide places for good, old-fashioned social networking

with others – places where we can relax and unwind, where we can experience new and different things, and where we can easily share thoughts and communal activities."

Tourism and outdoor recreation are also powerful economic engines in communities across the country. Recreation on federal lands in 2009 provided 440,000 jobs and contributed \$55 billion to the economy.

The fee waiver does not cover expanded amenity or user fees for things such as camping, boat launches, transportation, or special tours.

Active duty military members and their dependents are eligible for a free annual pass that provides entrance to lands managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Forest Service. The America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program also offers a free lifetime pass for people with disabilities, a \$10 lifetime senior pass for those age 62 and over, and a \$80 annual pass for the general public.

America's great outdoors should be experienced by everyone," said Salazar. "Our fantastic network of public lands provides world class recreational opportunities, the chance to view abundant wildlife in natural habitats, sites that showcase our nation's rich and diverse history, and some of the most incredible scenery found anyway. The fee free days will give both first time and repeat visitors a good reason to spend time in these extraordinary places."

*The Joy*  
of CHRISTMAS  
CELEBRATE THE SEASON





# Safety First . . .

## CHRISTMAS SAFETY TIPS

It's hard to realize that another Christmas season is almost upon us. It seems like last week we were preparing for the start of 2012.

According to the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) every year there are about 12,500 people treated for falls, cuts and shocks, which are related to the holiday season. Candles are responsible for 11,600 fires every year, resulting in 150 deaths, 1,200 injuries and \$173 million in property loss. Christmas trees fires cause approximately 300 fires each year, resulting in 10 deaths, 30 injuries and more than \$10 million in property loss and damage.

As you are sprucing up you home this season, keep an eye out for these common holiday trip-ups, fire hazards and other safety snafus.

### Trees:

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant."
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and do not break when bent between your fingers. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from

fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

### Lights:

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory. Use only lights that have plugs containing fuses.

- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets. Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.

- If using an extension cord, make sure it is rated for the intended use.

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.

- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples (not nails or tacks) to hold strings in place. Or, run

strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).

- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to protect against electric shock. Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can also be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

### Candles and Other Decorations:

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or non-leaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.

- Keep burning candles within sight.

- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles out of reach of children and pets.

- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of



children who could swallow or inhale small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.

- To avoid lung irritation, follow container directions carefully while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

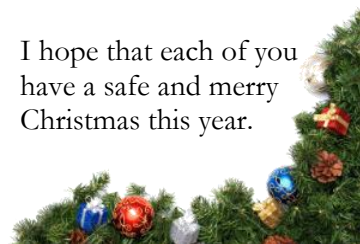
### Fireplaces:

- Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that, if eaten, can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting. Keep them away from children.

- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. Wrappings can ignite suddenly and burn intensely, resulting in a flash fire.

- Place a screen around your fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting nearby flammable materials.

I hope that each of you have a safe and merry Christmas this year.



*First Time, Every Time*